MARVEL® COMICS

THE SHROUD™ RETURNS TO STALK the SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN™

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SAL AND MAL III

BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER, STUDENT PETER PARKER GAINED THE PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH AND AGILITY OF AN ARACHNID! ARMED WITH HIS WONDROUS WEB-SHOOTERS, THE RELUCTANT SUPER HERO STRUGGLES WITH SINISTER SUPER-VILLAINS, MAKING ENDS MEET, AND MAINTAINING SOME SEMBLANCE OF A NORMAL LIFE!

STAN LEE PRESENTS: THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN

EEEE-YOW!
VINGH
SPECIAL THANKS GO OUT TO DAVID QUINN--REGULAR WRITER ON DR. STRANGE, AND THE CREATOR OF THE SCREAMING MASKS OF CYTORRAK!

SCREAMING CRIMSON

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WHAT WAS *THAT*?!

MY SPIDER-SENSE HITS ME LIKE A *KNIFE*, LIKE SOMETHING'S HURTLING STRAIGHT *AT* ME.

THEN IT SHUTS *OFF* LIKE THERE'S *NO* PROBLEM!

NOTHING HERE BUT A *VACANT LOT*. *WEIRD*.

WAITAMINIT! I WAS THROUGH HERE A COUPLE *DAYS* AGO AND THIS WASN'T A VACANT LOT *THEN!*

UH-OH!

NOW I REMEMBER WHAT THIS *USED* TO BE!

DOCTOR STRANGE'S MANSION!

NOT THAT THE PLACE WASN'T AN *EYESORE*, BUT...

I SURE HOPE THIS MEANS DOC *QUIT* THE MAGIC BIZ AND PLANS TO BUILD A *MINI-MALL* HERE--

--OR MAYBE I *DON'T* HOPE THAT, BECAUSE THE STUFF *HE'S* INTO, *I* CAN'T HANDLE!

MAYBE *NO ONE* CAN! ONE THING'S CERTAIN--

--*WHEREVER* DOC IS... *WHATEVER* HAPPENED*... I'M NOT GETTING SO MUCH AS A *BUZZ* OFF THIS RUBBLE...

*WHAT HAPPENED IS "THE SIEGE OF DARKNESS," CHRONICLED IN THE MIDNIGHT SONS BOOKS! --MARK

AND *SINCE* THERE'S NO THREAT I CAN SEE... I'VE GOT THINGS TO *DO*... AND SOMEONE TO *SEE*.

I HOPE THERE'S NOT SOMETHING GOING *WRONG* WITH MY SPIDER-SENSE ..

THWIPP

...THAT'S ONE THING I DON'T NEED WITH THE WAY THINGS ARE GOING LATELY!

WOW!

"DON'T GO TO NEW YORK, STANLEY," REGINA SAYS. "YOU'LL GET MUGGED OR WORSE, STANLEY!" SHE SAYS.

THAT WAS REALLY *SPIDER-MAN* --AND I GOT A *PICTURE* OF HIM! I'LL BE THE ENVY OF *BOISE!*

HEY! I JUST *THOUGHT*--

--PAPERS HERE PAY GOOD *MONEY* FOR PICTURES OF SPIDER-MAN!

IF I COULD GET A PICTURE IN THE *PAPER*--*THAT'D* BE SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT BACK AT THE *PLANT*--

WONK

WHAT THE--?!

DARK--AT THREE IN THE *AFTER-NOON*?! WHAT *IS* THIS, *ALASKA*?!

SOLID... DARKNESS...?

W-W-WHO--?

THOSE WHO HAVE LIVED CALL ME **THE SHROUD.**

UH--UH--YOU'RE--UH--ONE OF THEM *SUPER HEROES*, RIGHT?

PLEASE BE A SUPER *HERO*--

LEAVE THIS AREA, AND YOU WON'T HAVE TO FIND OUT.

THAT WAS *LUCKY*. I'M NOT INTERESTED IN FACING SPIDER-MAN ON *HIS* TURF.

YAAAAAAAAAAAAA!

FOR A *MOMENT*, I THOUGHT HE *SAW* ME, BUT HE WAS SIMPLY *REACTING* TO MY PRESENCE.

IN OUR *EARLIER* ENCOUNTER*, I REALIZED HE HAS SPECIAL *SENSES*, POWERFUL BUT *UNTRAINED*, REACTING TO *THREATS*.

BY STOPPING DEAD IN MY *TRACKS*, I *REMOVED* MYSELF AS AN IMMEDIATE THREAT--AND HID MYSELF IN *DARKNESS*.

MY MISSION IS *IMPORTANT**-- AND HE CAN'T BE ALLOWED TO *JEOPARDIZE* IT.

AS LONG AS I *CONTINUE* TO INFILTRATE THE UNDERWORLD IN THE GUISE OF A *SUPER-VILLAIN* HE WILL TREAT ME AS AN *ENEMY*--

*WAAAAAY BACK IN MARVEL TEAM UP #84.-- MARK

*SEE THE FORTHCOMING *SHROUD* LIMITED SERIES. (THIS IS THE LAST FOOTNOTE! HONEST!) --MARK

"--AND *I* MUST TREAT SPIDER-MAN AS THE *SAME*!"

THINGS SEEM TO HAVE *SETTLED DOWN*...GOOD. THE *LAST* THING I WANT TODAY IS *ANOTHER* PROBLEM...

MARLA?! WHAT--?!

NOTHING... JUST SPIDER-MAN... FOR A MOMENT, I THOUGHT...

I DON'T KNOW *WHAT* I THOUGHT. NO MATTER HOW MUCH THEY'VE SQUABBLED, SOMETIMES EVENTS THROW THEM *TOGETHER*...

AND YOU THOUGHT MAYBE HE WAS BRINGING DAD *HOME*, WAS *THAT* IT?

IF ONLY I KNEW WHERE HE *WAS*... HE HASN'T *CALLED*...

C'MON, MARLA! *YOU'VE* BEEN MARRIED TO DAD LONG ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT *J. JONAH JAMESON* DOES *EXACTLY* WHATEVER HE PLEASES.

IT'S... *DIFFERENT* THIS TIME...

...HE'S BEEN SO *ERRATIC* LATELY... AND *JOE ROBERTSON* SAID THERE WAS SOME TROUBLE WITH THE *PAPER*...

IF ANYTHING WERE TO HAPPEN TO THE *DAILY BUGLE*-- IT'S HIS *ANCHOR*--

YOU'RE HIS *WIFE! YOU'RE* SUPPOSED TO BE HIS ANCHOR!

DAD'S ALWAYS USED THAT BLASTED PAPER AS A BARRIER TO KEEP PEOPLE AWAY!

MAYBE IF THAT PAPER *WERE* TO GO UNDER, IT'D BE THE *BEST* THING TO EVER HAPPEN TO HIM!

THEN HE'D *HAVE* TO FACE UP TO THE PEOPLE WHO *LOVE* HIM.

AND *MAYBE* HE'D HAVE TO START LOVING THEM *BACK*.

MAN... HOSPITALS! YECCH! I HATE THESE PLACES!

IT'S A SMALL MIRACLE I HAVEN'T ENDED UP IN ONE YET.

BUT MARY JANE'S *RIGHT*-- I'VE PUT THIS OFF LONG *ENOUGH!*

IT'S BEEN *DAYS* SINCE FLASH WAS BEATEN HALF TO DEATH BY *TOMBSTONE**..

* *SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN* #205. --MARK. (OKAY, SO I LIED.)

--AND MAYBE SOME OF IT WAS *ROUGH*, BUT I GO FURTHER BACK WITH *HIM* THAN WITH PRACTICALLY *ANYONE*...

OH, THE "*GET WELL*" BOUQUET. OUR BEST SELLER, EVERYONE JUST *LOVES* THEM.

FUNNY... IF ANYONE HAD TOLD ME AS A *KID* I'D BE TAKING FLOWERS TO *FLASH THOMPSON*, I'D'VE TOLD THEM THEY WERE *NUTS*...

I GUESS WE *ALL* GROW UP.

AND AT THE RATE I'VE BEEN LOSING *FRIENDS* LATELY...

I'D BETTER START BEING *EXTRA* NICE TO THE ONES I'VE STILL *GOT*...

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NOK NOK

FLASH? *HI*. IS THIS A GOOD TIME?

PETE! JEEZ, I'VE BEEN *THINKING* ABOUT YOU. COME ON *IN*.

THAT'S NOT ANOTHER ONE OF THEIR "*GET WELL*" BOUQUETS, IS IT?

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OH. *FELICIA.* HI. I DIDN'T *EXPECT*--

I'VE GOT SOME *ERRANDS* TO RUN, LOVER. *NEED* ANYTHING?

JUST *YOU.*

I'LL BE BACK IN A COUPLE OF HOURS.

WHERE *ELSE* WOULD SHE BE? SHE'S MY *GIRL-FRIEND.* GET A *CLUE.*

SEE YOU LATER...

OOOOH. *CATTY.*

WHAT'S WITH YOU AND *FELICIA,* PETE*? I HAVEN'T SEEN HER COLD SHOULDER ANYONE LIKE *THAT* SINCE THE FIRST TIME *I* HIT ON HER.

THERE'S NOTHING WRONG BETWEEN YOU GUYS, IS THERE?

*FOR THE ANSWER, SEE ***SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN*** #205-206. --MARK. (STOP ME BEFORE I FOOTNOTE AGAIN!)

NO, OF *COURSE* NOT. I DON'T KNOW *WHAT'S* GOTTEN INTO HER. SHE'S BEEN ACTING STRANGELY SINCE YOU CAME INTO THE HOSPITAL.

MJ THINKS IT'S BECAUSE FELICIA'S IN *LOVE* WITH YOU.

FRANKLY, I WOULDN'T TRUST *ANYTHING* MARY JANE SAYS ABOUT FELICIA.

LOT OF *JEALOUSY* THERE. *SHE* WAS THE GLAMOROUS ONE BEFORE *FELICIA* SHOWED UP... I DON'T THINK MJ HAS *EVER* GOTTEN USED TO BEING NUMBER *TWO*...

WHA-A-AT?!

MAYBE... WHATEVER... *HERE*...

SHOULD I, UH, *STAY* AWHILE? YOU WANT TO TALK?

YEAH, I GUESS WE HAVE TO *SOONER* OR LATER.

NOTHING MUCH TO DO HERE BUT *THINK*, PETE.

I'VE BEEN THINKING A *LOT* SINCE I GOT HERE... *REALLY* THINKING, MAYBE FOR THE FIRST TIME...

EVER READ *RILKE*, PETE?

THE *POET*?! *YOU* READ POETRY?

SURE, WHY *WOULDN'T* I?

"THERE IS NO PLACE THAT DOES NOT SEE YOU, YOU MUST CHANGE YOUR LIFE." *RILKE* WROTE THAT.

I THINK A LOT OF THINGS IN *MY* LIFE HAVE TO CHANGE.

ARE WE *FRIENDS*, PETE?

WHAT? OF COURSE! WHY?

YOU *SURE*? WHAT'D YOU THINK OF ME IN *HIGH SCHOOL*?

LOOK, I'M NOT LOOKING FOR A *FIGHT*.

I'M *TIRED*, I'M *BEATEN* UP, I'M NOT GETTING *YOUNGER*. ALL I WANT IS SOME *TRUTH* IN MY LIFE.

FACT *IS*--IN HIGH SCHOOL, YOU THOUGHT I WAS SOME CRUDE, BRAINLESS *JOCK*.

AND I THOUGHT YOU WERE SOME SELF-APPOINTED *BRAINIAC* WHO THOUGHT YOU WERE *BETTER* THAN ANYONE ELSE BECAUSE YOU GOT *GOOD GRADES*.

TELL ME THAT'S NOT HOW IT WAS.

UM... MAYBE WE SHOULD CONTINUE THIS WHEN YOU'RE *OFF* MEDICATION...

FOR SUCH A *SMART* GUY, SOMETIMES YOU'RE *REALLY*...

LISTEN TO YOU! *WE'RE* NOT FRIENDS! FRIENDS *TALK*! I WAS *HARRY OSBORN'S* FRIEND, NOT *YOURS*!

AND *YOU* WERE HARRY'S FRIEND, *NOT* MINE. AND NOW HARRY'S *GONE*...

IF WHAT WE'VE *BEEN* THROUGH TOGETHER DOESN'T MAKE US FRIENDS, WHAT *DOES*?

THAT JUST MAKES US GUYS WHO *KNOW* EACH OTHER. WE'VE *ALWAYS* BEEN THAT.

WHEN HAVE WE *EVER* DONE WHAT *FRIENDS* DO? WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME WE WENT TO A *BALL GAME* TOGETHER?

WE-- UM... AH...

WE COULD ALWAYS *GO* TO ONE...

I DON'T THINK THAT'S A GOOD IDEA.

I MEAN... I'M NOT TRYING TO HURT YOU, PETE. I'M REALLY NOT. IT'S JUST...

I GOT TO *CHANGE* THINGS, YOU KNOW? I CAN'T WASTE *ENERGY* ANYMORE.

I WANT TO CHANGE MY *LIFE*.

NO, *I*... I *THINK* I... I *GET* IT. I'M *SORRY*...

DON'T BE *SORRY*, PETE. IT'S NOT *YOU*...

IT MAY NOT BE SOON, BUT I *WILL* BE IN TOUCH...

I'M SORRY I WASN'T A *BETTER* FRIEND.

I'LL *SEE* YOU... GET *WELL*...

LATER...

MARY JANE?

GREAT.

Tiger--up at the new place. Grab some dinner out, okay? Don't know when I'll be back-- love, M.J.

JUST WHEN I NEED SOMEONE TO TALK TO...

WELL...

THERE'S ALWAYS THE OLD *STANDBY*--

THIS IS THE SAFEST BLOCK IN MANHATTAN?!

LOOKS LIKE A BLOODY WAR TOOK PLACE HERE!

WHAT CAN I SAY, JOEY? MY PAL ON THE FORCE SAYS THERE'S NEVER ANY CRIME HERE. SAYS IT'S WEIRD.

IT BETTER BE SAFE. TROUBLE'S BAD FOR BUSINESS.

SHUT UP NOW. I'LL TALK.

GREGSON?

RIGHT. I TAKE IT YOU'RE MCHENRY.

GOT THE MONEY?

YEHHHHHH... GOOD.

WANT TO CHECK THE MERCHAN-DISE?

THESE RIFLES ARE ALL STATE OF THE ART?

YEAH, TOP GRADE. THREW IN A COUPLE BOXES OF GRENADES, TOO. A GOOD WILL GESTURE...

...SEEING AS HOW WE'LL BE DOING BUSINESS REGULAR...

TELL HIM ABOUT YOUR OLD CLIENTS, JOEY.

THE SHROUD?! HERE?!

THE ONES YOU LEFT FOR DEAD IN THE LOS ANGELES RIVER!

YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE ON THE *WEST COAST!*

KILL HIM!

KILL--?! *NO!*

I MUSTN'T BE CONNECTED WITH *ANY* CRIMES-- NOT IN THE *STATES!*

WE ALL HAVE BUSINESSES TO RUN, JOEY!

WE'RE *GUNRUNNING*, YOU BLOATED SACK OF--! THINK *THAT'S* NOT A CRIME?!

MY BUSINESS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU, JOEY.

YOU'RE A BONUS -- EXERCISE WHILE I'M WAITING.

THE SHROUD MAY HAVE *COME* FOR ME-- BUT HE WON'T *GET* ME!

YOUR MEN CAN'T SEE TO SHOOT. YOU CAN'T FIND ME.

I CAN TAKE YOUR MONEY. I CAN TAKE YOUR *GUNS.*

IF I *CHOSE*, I COULD TAKE YOUR ***LIVES!***

AND WHAT POWER ON EARTH COULD STOP ME?!

GO, MCHENRY-- LET *EVERYONE* KNOW THE SHROUD IS IN TOWN--

--TELL THEM I'M LOOKING TO DO SOME BUSINESS--

--AND NO IS NOT AN ACCEPTABLE ANSWER!

NAVY ISSUE. SOMETHING ELSE TO CHECK OUT WHEN I GET HOME.

JOEY'S SUPPLIER COULD BE USEFUL...

GOING FOR THE "BIG GUNS" LOOK, ARE WE?

SPIDER-MAN!

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND--

JEEZ, I NEVER WOULD'VE THOUGHT YOU WERE A SLAVE TO FASHION!

YOU SURE COULDN'T PROVE IT BY YOU'R COSTUME!

HEY, IN *SOME* CIRCLES I'M CONSIDERED DOWNRIGHT *EDUCATED!*

WHA--?! HOW'D *YOU--!*

OH, YEAH.

FORGOT YOU HAVE SPECIAL *SENSES.*

GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO POUND YOU *SENSELESS!*

BEEN A LONG *TIME,* SHROUD!

TIMES CHANGE, SPIDER-MAN!

SOME OF US GET *BETTER.*

WAK!

BUT YOU STILL WASTE HALF YOUR ENERGY ON POINTLESS CHATTER.

YOU FIGHT LIKE IT'S A *GAME* YOU CAN WALK *AWAY* FROM AFTERWARDS.

YOU **BELONG** ON THE JUNK HEAP WITH THE OTHER WORTHLESS **RELICS.**

WHAM!

SREEEEE

BLASTED POWER OF HIS IS SERIOUSLY MESSING WITH MY SPIDER-SENSE...

WHAT'S THAT *NOISE?*

SREEEE

SOME KIND OF *MASKS*-- FROM WHAT'S LEFT OF *DR. STRANGE'S* HOUSE--

THE *SORCERER?!* HE LIVED HERE?!

THESE OBJECTS COULD BE *DEMONIC* IN NATURE!

WELL, *DUH!*

I GUESS THEY NEVER HEARD OF *PERSONAL SPACE!*

MAYBE I SHOULD CHANGE MY NAME TO "YOUR *HOSTILE* NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-MAN!"

THAT "*FRIENDLY*" PART KEEPS GIVING PEOPLE THE WRONG IDEA...

DO WHAT YOU *WANT*, SPIDER-MAN.

MY DARKNESS SEEMS TO ANNOY THEM--

--SO I'LL LEAVE THEM TO YOU.

HOLD IT!

I DON'T KNOW IF *THOSE* THINGS ARE A THREAT OR NOT, BUT *YOU*--

--WITH *YOU* THERE'S NO *QUESTION!*

WHAT?!

DARKNESS--SCULPTED TO *LOOK* LIKE THE SHROUD! THE SAME TRICK HE PULLED *LAST* TIME!

WHICH *MEANS*--

UH-*HUH!*

NEED HELP WITH YOUR *BAG?!*

NO!

THAT CASH COULD BE OF INVALUABLE ASSISTANCE TO MY COVER--

HEY, WE ALSO HAVE *VALET PARKING!*

TELL YOU *WHAT*--FOR *YOU*, WE'LL EVEN WAIVE THE *TIP!*

WHAT, YOU'VE GOT A PROBLEM WITH THE *SERVICE?!*

I SHOULD *WARN* YOU--

--THE *COMPLAINTS* DEPARTMENT DOESN'T LIKE TO BE *DISTURBED!*

WAITAMINIT! I AM THE COMPLAINTS DEPARTMENT!

SPIDER-SENSE - GOING *BALLISTIC!* JUST LIKE *THIS AFTERNOON!*

WHAT THE--?! MY *SENSES!* SOMETHING *OTHER* THAN SPIDER-MAN IS --

WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!

JOEY GREGSON AND HIS MEN!

BUT THE MASKS--!

YOU TRYING FOR YOUR "MASTER OF THE OBVIOUS" *MERIT BADGE* TODAY OR SOMETHING?

LOOKS LIKE IT'S TRUCE TIME, BRIGHT-EYES...

NEXT ISSUE • **FEAR EATS THE SOUL**

STAN LEE PRESENTS: J. JONAH JAMESON IN TAPS PT. 3: "NEW VALUES"

WHAT'S EVERYONE *GAWKING* AT?! GET BACK TO *WORK!*

THIS IS A *NEWSPAPER*, NOT A BLASTED *SIDESHOW!*

MI-MI-MI-MI-MI-

MR. JAMESON!

STEVEN GRANT
writer

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DAVE SHARPE
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MICHAEL HIGGINS
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WE... WE THOUGHT YOU COULD BE *DEAD!*

YOU WERE *MISSING...*

IDIOT *NONSENSE!*

CAN'T A MAN TAKE SOME TIME OFF TO *REFLECT?*

UNINFORMED *GOSSIP!* THAT'S BEEN THE **RUIN** OF THIS PLACE!

NOW CANCEL ALL MY *APPOINTMENTS!*

I WANT *ALL* DEPARTMENT HEADS IN MY OFFICE IN HALF AN HOUR, *NO* EXCEPTIONS!

ANYONE THINKS THAT'S TOO *TOUGH*, REMIND THEM UN-EMPLOYMENT IS *TOUGHER!*

NOBODY LAUGHS AT THE DAILY BUGLE!

THERE ARE GOING TO BE SOME *CHANGES* AROUND *HERE!*

SLAM

CHANGES! HMPH!

WEBS BY PETER PARKER

ALL SPIDER-MAN'S FAULT!

WHEN I BEGAN IN JOURNALISM, I WAS TAUGHT THAT WE PRINT THE TRUTH -- NO MATTER WHAT THE COST!

THAT'S ALL I TRIED TO DO -- WARN PEOPLE ABOUT THAT WALLCRAWLER!

BUT I DIDN'T DO IT WELL ENOUGH. I FAILED.

AND NOW SPIDER-MAN IS A CELEBRITY, DESPITE ALL MY EFFORTS --

--WHILE THE BUGLE IS A LAUGHINGSTOCK!

DAILY BUGLE

BUGLE WINS PULITZER PRIZE

ONCE WE WERE THE PINNACLE OF CREDIBILITY -- AND NOW --

--BECAUSE I TOLD THE TRUTH -- NO MATTER WHAT THE COST.

WELL, THE COST WAS TOO HIGH. I SEE THAT NOW.

BIL

NOW IT'S TIME TO LET GO, AND REBUILD...

MR. JAMESON-- THEY'RE *HERE!*

HMM ?

OH! SEND THEM *IN!*

THIS HAD BETTER BE *IMPORTANT*, JONAH. WE'RE TRYING TO GET THE *FINAL* OUT !

WE'LL *MISS* THE FINAL IF WE *HAVE* TO !

WHAT ?! WE'VE *NEVER--*

WHAT *WE* NEED TO TALK ABOUT GOES *BEYOND* THE PUBLISHING OF A SINGLE EDITION !

THIS INVOLVES THE VERY *SURVIVAL* OF THE DAILY BUGLE !

IT'S COME TO MY ATTENTION THAT THERE'S SOMETHING *ROTTEN* IN THE BUGLE-- SOMETHING THAT THREATENS US *ALL !*

I INTEND TO MERCILESSLY *TRACK DOWN* THIS *POISON*-- TO STAMP IT *OUT !*

AND WHOEVER FALLS BY THE *WAYSIDE*, WELL, THERE MAY BE A HEAVY *PRICE* TO PAY !

BUT THE BUGLE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN *ANY* ONE OF US, *INCLUDING* ME !

DO I MAKE MYSELF *CLEAR ?!*

PLEASE! JONAH! I DIDN'T MEAN TO!

BUT... I'VE HAD... YOU KNOW... DEBTS...

IT'S A DISEASE, I KNOW... I'VE BEEN MEANING TO GET HELP...

I...I'LL PAY IT ALL BACK... I PROMISE...

ARE YOU SAYING YOU'VE BEEN EMBEZZLING, BARRY?

YOU KNOW I HAVE... PLEASE... DON'T TOY WITH ME ANYMORE.

THANKS FOR BRINGING IT UP BARRY, BUT IT'S NOT WHAT I WAS TALKING ABOUT.

GLORY, COULD YOU CALL THE POLICE? SEND THEM TO MY OFFICE WHEN THEY GET HERE.

FACT IS -- OUR STANDARDS AROUND HERE HAVE GOTTEN SLIPSHOD! WE LET ANYTHING GO OUT IN THE NAME OF JOURNALISM!

SO WE CHANGE, OR WE DIE!

AND IF WE CAN'T CHANGE, WE DESERVE TO DIE!

JONAH, YOU'RE INSULTING THESE PEOPLE -- AND YOU'RE INSULTING ME! AS EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, I'VE DEMANDED AS STRINGENT STANDARDS AS MY AUTHORITY WOULD ALLOW FROM EVERYONE!

BY THE WAY, MARLA IS WORRIED SICK ABOUT YOU!

MY WIFE'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS, JOE.

ALL I'M DOING IS PASSING ALONG A *MESSAGE!*

DOES ALL THIS MEAN YOU WANT MY *RESIGNATION?!*

JOE-- *JOE!* I'M NOT CASTING *BLAME!* I'M AS GUILTY AS *ANYONE!*

IT'S THE *AGE* WE'RE LIVING IN! IT'S *EASY* TO LOSE SIGHT OF WHAT'S GOOD AND WHAT'S BAD-- TO PURSUE *PERSONAL* GOALS IN THE NAME OF JOURNALISM! I'VE STARED INTO MY OWN PERSONAL ABYSS-- AND REALIZED *SOMETHING* HAD TO CHANGE.

BUT *NO ONE* WANTS ANYONE TO *QUIT!*

MY IDEA WAS TO BRING IN A NEW *EXECUTIVE* EDITOR TO WORK *UNDER* YOU-- SOMEONE WITH *YEARS* OF EXPERIENCE IN THE NEWS BUSINESS--

WHO?

SOMEONE WHO KNOWS A *GOOD* STORY AND HOW TO MAKE IT BETTER--SOMEONE WHO UNDERSTANDS PUBLIC *TASTES*--

WHO?

SOMEONE WHO'LL STEER *CLEAR* OF SHLOCK AND SENSATIONALISM, AND CULTS OF *PERSONALITY*, AND ALL THAT *TV TABLOID* JUNK!

SOMEONE LIKE *ME.*

LIKE WHO?

ME. I MEAN *ME.*

I'M YOUR NEW *EXECUTIVE EDITOR.*

AND I'LL *PROMISE* YOU THIS--

--*NO ONE* WILL LAUGH AT THE DAILY BUGLE WHILE *I'M* AROUND...

NEVER THE END!